01099

1972/11/09

SITUATION: PARIS TALKS
SUBJECT CATAGORY: US

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE / PRIORITY
SUP340R
012456 FJJ 407
O P 091928Z NOV 72
FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6406 AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1097

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 4808
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 4139 AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 5824 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6086
AMEMASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY 6705 CINCPAC PRIORITY UNN
COMUSMACV PRIORITY UNN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 USDEL FRANCE 21504

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
SUBJ: PARIS MEETINGS ON VIET-NAM: PRESS BRIEFING BY US DELEGATION SPOKESMAN DAVID LAMBERTSON, NOVEMBER 9, 1972
PRESS SPOKESMEN BRIEFED IN FOLLOWING ORDER: PRG; DRV; US; GVN.
MR. LAMBERTSON: GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
Q. YES, GOOD AFTERNOON. AS TO THE FINAL AGREEMENT . . . (INDISTINCT). . . WHERE AND WHEN IT WILL BE SIGNED -- AS IT DEALS WITH THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR, WHICH IS TO START AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS AND END AT THE SAME TIME-- AS IT' S A RATHER COMPLICATED SUBJECT, COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER YOU ARE DISCUSSING THIS ALREADY?
A. DISCUSSING THE MODALITIES OF PRISONER OF WAR RELEASE?
Q. NO, I MEAN, THERE HAVE TO BE LISTS OF PRISONERS OF WAR, THEY HAVE TO BE CHECKED THERE ARE PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS...IT' S AN AWFULLY COMPLICATED SUBJECT.
A. NO, I CAN' T TELL YOU, EDITH, WHETHER IT' S BEING DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW. I AGREE THAT IT IS A COMPLEX PROBLEM.
Q. BUT I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE -- AND OF COURSE THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

HOWE, LORD

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E012958

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WE START,
A. WELL YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT WE HAVE OUR OWN VERY DETAILED LISTS AND DETAILED IDEAS OF WHO IS TO BE RETURNED, BUT, NO, I CAN' T SAY WHETHER OR NOT ANYTHING PRELIMINARY TO THE ACTUAL EXCHANGE IS BEING DONE AT THIS TIME.
Q. WAS THIS BECAUSE IT' S COVERED IN THE PRIVATE TALKS, OR BECAUSE...WOULD THAT BE THE EXPLANATION?
A. WELL OBVIOUSLY IT DOES INVOLVE PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS, OR IT WOULD, WERE THAT TO BE THE CASE.(LAUGHTER.)
Q. DAVE, IS IT STILL THE CURRENT U.S. POLICY TO ANNOUNCE THE FACT OF MEETINGS OF DR. KISSINGER IN PARIS WITH THE NORTH VIET-NAMESE? AND IF SO, COULD YOU SAY WHETHER DR. KISSINGER HAPPENED TO BE IN PARIS ON FRIDAY, ACCORDING TO CERTAIN RUMORS?
A. I DON' T HAVE DR. KISSINGE' S SCHEDULE OF LAST FRIDAY, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE POLICY WILL REMAIN THE SAME, THAT IS, THE NEXT PRIVATE MEETING WILL BE ACKNOWLDEGED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AS IT TAKES PLACE.
Q. CAN WE CONCLUDE FROM THAT, THAT KISSINGER WASN' T HERE ON FRIDAY?
A. YES, YOU CAN.
Q. I HAVE ONE OTHER QUESTION, IF I MAY, DAVID. AMBASSADOR PORTER MADE SOME REMARKS THIS MORNING ON GOING IN, ABOUT THE ELECTION RESULTS INVIGORATING THE DELEGATION, AND I WONDERED WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR IS A REPUBLICAN. (LAUGHTER.)
A. I REALLY DON' T KNOW, BERN, BUT I THINK HE DID SPEAK FOR MOST OF US, CERTAINLY FOR MYSELF.
Q. ARE YOU A REPUBLICAN?
A. THAT' S A PERSONAL QUESTION, JON. (LAUGHETER.)
Q. DAVID, THE AMBASSADOR ALSO, UPON ENTERING, SAID THAT ... WISH I HAD IT HERE... BUT...EVERY PASSING DAY PEACE COMES PERCEPTIBLY NEARER.
NOT WITHOUT WANTING TO CONTEND THE AMBASSADOR' S REMARKS, THE OTHER SIDE SAID THAT PEACE IS NOT FOR TOMORROW, AND CERTAINLY GAVE US ANOTHER VIEW OF PROCEEDINGS. WOULD IT BE FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS TALKING, NOT ONLY ABOUT WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE HAPPENING HERE IN PARIS AT YOUR TALKS, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE PRIVATE CONTACTS WHICH SEEM TO BE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THAT OF NORTH VIET-NAM.
OTHERWISE IT' S... .../...
PORTER

BT

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SENSITIVE

SITUATION: PARIS TALKS
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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE / PRIORITY
HCE380
SUP340R
012581 FJJ409 FJJ 409
OO RUHHHQA RUEHC RUMTBK RUEHGN RUMJFS RUEIKO RUADOHA RHMSMVA
RUEHDT
DE RUFNPS #1504/2 3142000
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O P 091928Z NOV 72
FM USDEL FRANCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6407
RUEHGN/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1098
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 4809
RUADOHA/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 4140
ZEN/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
RUEIKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 5825
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6087
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY 6706
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC PRIORITY UNN
RHMSMVA/COMUSMACV PRIORITY UNN
BT
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A.- WELL, THE AMBASSADOR WAS SPEAKING FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION, WHICH IS EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED. HOWEVER,

IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO BE ESPECIALLY MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THAT.

WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT AN ADDITIONAL PRIVATE MEETING IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE, RELATIVELY SOON, AND THAT IN THAT PRIVATE MEETING, REMAIING MATTERS UNRESOLVED AT THIS POINT, WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF AND AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED.
Q.- DAVID, HAS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PUT FORWARD A NEW TIMETABLE FOR INITIALING AND SIGNING THE ACCORD? WHEN YOU SAID A "NEW MEETING" OR MAYBE SINCE YOU HAVE SUGGESTED A NEW MEETING...
A.A I WOULDN'T ATTEMPT TO ANSWER THAT. I WOULD REMIND YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE ORIGINAL TIMETABLES, AS DR. KISSINGER NOTED ON THE 26TH, WERE DATES PUT FORWARD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

HOWE, LORD

PSN:053907 DTG:091928 [redacted] TOR:3142232

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By [illegible] NARA Date 3/6/00

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SITUATION: PARIS TALKS
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THE OTHER SIDE. WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANY SPECIFIC TIMETABLE. THE NEXT PRIVATE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN THE OTHER SIDE SETS A DATE.
Q.- NO, I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT WHEN THE NEXT PRIVATE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT PURELY THE PROCEDURAL ASPECT...THAT AFTER THE PRIVATE MEETING, TWO DAYS, OR THEREE DAYS...NOTHING PROPOSED ON YOUR SIDE?
A.- I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT.
Q.- YOU CAN'T COMMENT?
Q.- DAVE, DOES THAT MEAN THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP WHATERVER BETWEEN THE NEXT PRIVATE MEETING AND GENERAL HAIG'S VISIT TO SAIGON?
A.- I HAVE NO COMMENT ON GENERAL HAIG'S VISIT TO SAIGON, MIKE, OTHER THAN TO REPEAT WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE SAID ABOUT IT.
Q.- IS THE NEXT PRIVATE MEETING CONCEIVABLY TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND MINISTER XUAN THUY ALONE, OR IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE LE DUC THO?
A.- I ASSUME THAT IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT IT WOULD BE WITH LE DUC THO.
QMA HAVE YOU IN FACT RECEIVED A DATE FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, OR A PLACE?
A.- NO COMMENT.
FLORA?
Q.- HAS AMBASSADOR PORTER SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION, AS RONALD ZIEGLER INDICATED WAS EXPECTED?
A.- NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.
Q.- WHEN AMBASSADOR PORTER IS REFERRING TO THE "GOODWILL AND SEIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE" BY THE HANOI NEGOTIATORS SINCE OCTOBER 8TH, DOES IT COVER ONLY THE PERIOD UNTIL OCTOBER 17TH, WHERE ACCORDING TO HANOI THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED? OR DOES IT INCLUDE...
A.- OH, I THINK THAT QUITE CLEARLY HE IS REFERRING TO THE FOUR DAYS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSION FOLLOWING OCTOBER 8, AND THE --YES, THE SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE 17TH.
Q.- DAVE, MR. PHONG WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED BY THE OTHER SIDE RAISING THE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAMAT TODAY'S MEETING; AND I WONDER IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN TO US IN WHAT WAY THIS ISSUE DID COME OUT IN THE TEXT.
A.- NO, I DON'T RECALL WHAT, SPECIFICALLY, WAS SAID IN ADDITION TO THE PREPARED TEXT. THAT'S A QUESTION YOU CAN ASK MR. DAN.
QMA HE SAID, "THE COMMUNIST SIDE RAISED TODAY THE QUESTION OF BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM." DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THEY DID THIS?
A.- NOT SPECIFICALLY, MIKE, I SUGGEST YOU ASK MR. DAN .../...
PORTERC

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By [illegible] NARA Date 3/6/00

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE / PRIORITY
SUP340R
012636 FJJ 411
O P 091928Z NOV 72
FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6408 IMMEDIATE 1099

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 4810
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 4141 AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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AMEMBASSY VIENTAINE PRIORITY 6707 CINCPAC PRIOTRITY UNN
COMUSMACV PRIOTRITY UNN

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Q. COULD YOU TELL US... THERE ARE RUMORS TODAY FROM SAIGON THAT PRESIDENT THIEU IS NO LONGER ASKING FOR THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES FROM SOUTH VIET-NAM, BUT INSTEAD, FEELS THAT WERE THE AGREEMETNT TO COVER REGROUPING OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN TO OR THREE PLACES... IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, THAT THIS WOULD SUFFICE T
O
ALLOW SOUTH VIET-NAM TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.
COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER THE ACCORD , IN ITS FULL RATHER THAN IT ABBREVVIATED FORM, COVERS... ANY SUCH POSSIBILITY... OR WHETHER WE, THE UNITED STATES, THINK THAT THIS MIGHT BE... WELL, A POSSIBLE QUESTION THAT MIGHT BE BROUGHT UP WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE NEXT PRIVATE MEETING?
A. I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THAT QUESTION AS IT MAY BE TREATED IN THE FULL TEXT OF THE ACCORD, NOR WILL I COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON ON THER RUMOR TO WHICH YOU REFER, JON CONCERCERNING REGROUPMENT.
WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL QUESTION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES, WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THAT IS A SUBJECT THAT HAS REQUIRED FURTHER ATTENTION.
Q. HOW IS THE WITHDRAWAL TO NORTH VIET-NAM OF THE 35,000 NORTH VIET-NAMESE FORCES IN THE NORTHERN TIP OF SOUTH VIET-NAM GETTING ON?
A. THAT'S ANOTHER RUNOR THAT WE HAVE NOT COMMENTED ON EDITH. (LAUGHET

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

HOWE, LORD

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Q. DAVE, WHEN YOU SAY YOU ARE OPTIMISTIC THERE WILL BE A PRIVATE MEETING RELATIVELY SOON, DO YOU BASE THIS OPTIMISM ON ANYTING THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE 26TH OF OCTOBER?
A. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY T O TIE IT TO ANYTHING
YOU'VE SEEN A GREAT MANY STATEMENTS TO THAT EFFECT FROM MEMBRRS OF TH
E
GOVERNMENT AT HOME -- SUBSEQUENT, CERTAINLY, TO OCTOBER 16-- AND YOU CAN ASSUME THAT THOSE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN BASED ON A DETAILED KNOWLE
DGE
OF THE SITUATION.
Q- DAVID, IS THERE A FIRM AGREEMENT THAT THE CEASE FIRE IS TO BE INITIALLED IN HANOI AND SIGNED IN PARIS?
A. I DON'T THINK I'LL COMMENT ON THAT, DON.
Q. ON THAT , DID WE ASK LAST WEEK--EXCUSE ME IF WE DID --IT WAS SUGGESTED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THAT IT WAS AN AMERICAN IDEA TO HAVE THE AGREEMENT INITIALLED IN HANOI.
EXCUSE ME FI YOU ANSWERED THE QUESTION LAST WEEK, BUT COULD YOU COMMENT ON IT? ON WHETHER YOU FEEL IT WAS AN AMERICAN SUGGESTION?
A. NO, I CAN'T COMMENT ONTHAT, JONATHAN I'M NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH THAT PORTION OF THE RECORD. I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND TAKE A LOOK--AMONG OTHER THINGS, AT DR KISSINGER'S TRANSCRIPT.
Q. HE DOES NOT ADDRESS THAT
A. HE DOES NOT?
Q. NO, I WAS INTERESTING BECAUSE IT WAS... I THINK IN NGUYEN THAN LE'S PRESS CONFERENCE A COUPLE OF FRIDAY'S AGO, INWHICH HE MADE QUITE A POINT OF IT SUCH AS SAYING THAT IT HAD BEEN AT U.S. INSISTENCE THAT THE INITIALLING CEREMONY WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN HANOI.
Q. THAT SOUNDS RATHER UNLIKELY TO ME,
THAND YOU VERY MUCH.
(WHEREUPON AT 3:45 P.M. THE CONFERENCE WAS TERMINATED)
PORTER

BT

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